

The Library Assistant:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & EDITORIALS.

The **Next Meeting** of the Association will be held on Wednesday, 11th February, 1925, at 7 p.m., in the **Officers' Guild Room, Town Hall, Lambeth, S.W.** Please use the Acre Lane entrance. Mr. A. B. Robinson, F.L.A., Chief Librarian, Lambeth Public Libraries, will preside. Three short papers will be read, entitled:—

"Recognition—certificates, age, merit." By Mr. H. A. Sharp, F.L.A., Croydon.

"Music and Gramophones in Public Libraries." By Mr. F. S. Smith, Bethnal Green.

"The Publicity Agent." By Miss Exley, St. Marylebone.

Members and friends are cordially invited to visit the Central Library, which is opposite the Town Hall, *before* the meeting.

The **Junior Section** will hold their meeting in the Guild Room, at 6.30 p.m., when Miss L. Carr (Croydon), will read a paper on "The Commercial Bureau."

The **Council** will also meet in the Guild Room on the same date, Committees 5.30 p.m., Council 6 p.m.

The Library may be reached from the Elephant and Castle by Tram Service No. 10 or 'Bus Services Nos. 134 and 34. The nearest Underground Station is the Oval, thence by tram or 'bus as above. Book to Lambeth Town Hall.

As this is the first meeting of the Association at Brixton we hope that members will attend and discuss the papers which should prove of great interest.

The Herne Hill Branch has been re-organised quite recently and members who have time to visit this branch will be amply repaid. The nearest station is Loughborough Junction.

The Questionnaire.—By the time these lines appear, librarians all over the country will have wrestled with the most formidable questionnaire—horrible word—that they have so far been faced with. We say "so far," because it may be that this is only a fore-shadowing of what may follow if certain things come to pass. They will have wrestled, and set down their answers, hence the matter is no longer *sub judice*.

Really, we are getting so used to these documents, that the task—or art—of filling them up is becoming a fascinating pastime, and one which, if it continues, will cause the inventors of cross-word puzzles to look to their laurels.

In case there are some of our readers who have been denied a sight of this entertaining and fateful document, we may say that it consists of seventeen printed foolscap pages, containing altogether thirty-six leading questions, with goodness knows how many sub-questions, and an introductory page of four notes and a heading, indicating the fact that the document emanates from the Board of Education on behalf of the "Public Libraries Committee, of which Sir Frederic G. Kenyon and C. O. G. Douie are respectively the chairman and the secretary. The "questionnaire" itself is divided into A, B, C, and D. A is statistical, B is "Public Libraries Committee," C concerns "Library Organisation," and D is what we have heard referred to as the "Blank page," on which librarians are invited to suggest "what measures, whether legislative or otherwise, would, in your opinion, best advance the welfare of the public library system." We guess that the clerk who tabulates this page will need a good sized sheet of paper!

The Committee appears to have recognized even at this early stage the verbosity of some librarians, for a note provides that, if necessary, answers may flow over to a separate sheet. But sometimes the space allotted permits of this being done.

It would have been interesting to have had the name of the librarian on each schedule, because in some cases this information might throw more light on the efficiency of a library system than the whole lot of answers put together.

In view of the chaotic state of salaries at present, the space provided at 8 appears to be quite inadequate, and unless this number has been filled in very carefully it may be rendered useless for purposes of comparison.

We are sorry to see that opportunities for the exercise of imagination have been provided by the inclusion of a space for "estimated" issues. Very dangerous!

Can there be more than one "chief" librarian of a library? The questionnaire at least provides for such an undesirable contingency.

It has only happened by coincidence, but it is almost humorous to see three parts of a foolscap page set aside for the question, "Is the committee represented at the annual conference of the Library Association?"

And here is another nice one! "What criterion is used for placing books in the Reference Department rather than in the Lending Department?" Really, a prize ought to have been offered for the most concise answer to this.

Why is it not asked what qualifications are required of chief librarians? The question only relates to "assistants." We seem to see a red light just here!

Finally, we think it just a little unkind on the part of the compilers of the questionnaire to ask so many questions regarding lectures and their cost. Exactly why, our readers will appreciate.

We could say a good deal more, but the Editor gave us a page and we have filled two. We await the results of the tabulation with interest, and only venture to hope, in conclusion, that every librarian has made his return. If not, do it now.

V. P.

The January Meeting.—A very successful meeting was held on Wednesday, the 14th, when the Association paid its first visit to Tottenham. Members were greatly impressed with the fine appearance and tone of the Lending Library which has been converted to the open access system fairly recently.

Business opened at 6.30 p.m. with a meeting of the Junior Section, at which Mr. A. T. Austing, of Wood Green, presided. The paper was read by Mr. S. E. Overal, of Walthamstow, who touched on some of the possible effects of the removal of the preliminary test, after which the meeting adjourned to the Retiring Room where refreshments were awaiting consumption. Here the chair was taken by the Rev. T. W. Oswald Hicks, Chairman of the Libraries Committee, who formally welcomed the Association to Tottenham.

Mr. L. A. Dubery, J.P., a member of the Tottenham Libraries Committee occupied the chair at the general meeting owing to the absence through an urgent business call of Dr. A. G. Newell, the Chairman of the Tottenham Council. Mr. F. P. Sinclair's exhaustive paper on "The Defence of the Novel"—to which was prefaced some interesting words written for the occasion by Mr. Frank Swinnerton and Miss S. Kaye-Smith—was listened to with great interest and caused a spirited discussion to take place at its conclusion. Among the participators in the discussion were the Chairman, Mr. R. H. D. Smith (Richmond), Mr. Smith (Bethnal Green), Miss Rees (Fulham), Mr. Vale (Bethnal Green), Mr. Wright (Wandsworth) and the Hon. Secretary. There were hopes of the Hon. Treasurer following the Hon. Secretary but

apparently time didn't permit and Mr. Sandry moved, with his customary eloquence, a vote of thanks to the speaker for his paper.

The Hon. Secretary rounded off a successful evening by proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman of the meeting, the Tottenham Council and Mr. W. J. Bennett and his staff. If we may be allowed to pass one comment it is that this meeting provided a splendid lesson of the success that can be effected by cordial co-operation between the authority (in so courteously placing the Council Chamber and Retiring Room at our disposal), the chief of the department (and Mr. Bennett is an old friend of our Association who spared no pains to ensure the success of the meeting), and the staff, who were quietly, but none the less effectively, on the *qui vive* throughout the meeting in attending to the personal requirements of their visitors. Well done, Tottenham!

Professional Qualifications.—We regret to say that we are frankly disappointed at the response to our request of last month for all information on the subject of financial recognition for professional qualifications. May we again appeal earnestly to all those who possess any information and have not yet communicated it to the Hon. Secretary to do so as soon as possible. The information is of the greatest importance to many of our members and upon a full return depends an immediate increase of salary to members of several libraries staffs. To the few who have so kindly supplied the desired information we tender our very best thanks.

Dance Tickets for the dance to be held at Cripplegate Institute, on Wednesday, 25th February, 1925, may be obtained from the following, price 2s. 6d. inclusive: Mr. Cooper, Battersea; Mr. Cross, Croydon; Miss Exley, St. Marylebone; Mr. Jones, Stepney; Mr. Parker, Hackney; Mr. Maskett, Bethnal Green; Miss Rees, Fulham; Mr. Wright, Wandsworth.

For the benefit of members who do not dance who are bringing friends, we hope to arrange an informal game of whist during the dancing. Dancing to commence at 7.30 p.m. prompt. Morning dress.

The London and Home Counties Branch and Ourselves.—This Branch of the Library Association convened a special meeting which was duly held at the St. Bride Institute on Wednesday, January 7th, at 3 p.m. The business down for consideration was a draft report of the Co-ordination Committee which was to be submitted to members after it had been dealt with by the Council. The idea of the Branch was to give a lead to its members in filling up the Government questionnaire, and so weighty were its deliberations on this question that it was decided to convene a Special Conference for Wednesday, January 21st, at 3 p.m.

At this Special Conference it was decided, by vote, to invite only chief librarians (whether members of the Association or not!) and one representative from each library authority within the area.

Had an independent conference been convened by the Chief Librarians of the area no one could have cavilled at the restriction of invitations. When, however, a Branch of the Library Association, whose primary object is "To unite all persons engaged or interested in library work," convenes a conference and makes such a distinction, surely it is rank bad form to say the least. (Perhaps it is even outside their powers, but let that pass for the moment.) To exclude definitely a section of their members who have been among the most enthusiastic supporters of the Branch appeared such a deliberate slight that it is small wonder that the Council of our Association, at its January Council Meeting, instructed the Hon. Secretary to send a letter of protest to the London and Home Counties Branch, and also a letter to the Hon. Secretary of the Library Association asking if the Branch were in order in their decision to exclude assistants who were members. Replies have been received to both of these letters but as the matter is still *sub judice* it is impossible to comment here on their contents. Perhaps we shall be able to make further remarks after the Council Meeting of the Library Association.

Apart altogether from the principle involved, it hardly seems cricket to utilize funds for a conference largely provided by people who are not to be allowed admission. One librarian was courageous enough to say that some chiefs would probably not like their subordinates at such a conference—that we can easily imagine, but it hardly justifies the action of the Branch.

We could, of course, continue in this strain, but will conclude by merely asking the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association to consider three points:—

(1) What action would they take were members of the staff of the British Museum to present themselves for admission to this Conference? They have some on their members' roll.

(2) Will they appoint another Hon. Secretary for the Conference, because the present Hon. Secretary of the Branch is not entitled to be present?

(3) Would the resignation of all members of the Branch who are not Chief Librarians assist the Branch to conduct its affairs more easily, or would such action tend to put future meetings of the Branch on the same level as the meetings of the Library Association which were the objects of such disparaging remarks at the formation of the Branch?

Our members are reminded that at our March meeting the County Librarian of Middlesex will open a discussion on Co-operation.

Bolton.—The Corporation are promoting a Bill in Parliament which *inter alia* provides for the erection of a Central Library and Art Gallery at an estimated cost of £165,000. The present Central Library in Bolton is in three separate buildings, and proper control and co-ordination of the work is well-nigh impossible. The preliminary plans, covering an area of about 25,000 sq. ft. and situated in the Town Centre, have been already approved by the Council, and show a very handsome structure architecturally uniform with the Town Hall.

In addition, an elaborate scheme for the conversion of all the Children's Reading Halls into Juvenile Open Access Libraries is to be commenced at once. The Astley Bridge Branch is the first to be converted, the order for the necessary fittings having been placed in the hands of Libraco, Ltd.

The Work of the Council.—The January meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday, the 7th, at the Stepney Public Library, when the chair was taken by the Vice-President, Mr. H. A. Sharp.

Several points of interest were discussed through the reading of the Hon. Secretary's correspondence. The Council were naturally very interested in the plucky attempt of our East Coast colleagues to form a Division. It is obvious that much will depend on the energy which Norwich can radiate, and it will be a great achievement if a Division is eventually formed in that area—an achievement that must surely shame some of the more populous areas.

The correspondence was read relating to the curious wording of the advertisement for a rural librarianship of which mention was made in our last issue, and it appeared that the Association's letter of protest had not been a fruitless effort.

Another point was that of a Council which had decided to recognise the possession of professional certificates by its staff with the exception of its libraries department. Here again, although the particular library system is far from well-represented in our ranks, the Association is making an effort to secure the recognition to which the staff is undoubtedly entitled.

That useful item on any agenda, "Other business," was responsible for a suggestion which takes effect with this number. It arose from hearing Mr. Vale's paper on "Knowledge of Books," and our readers will notice the first list of books which assistants ought to know. Mr. Vale, at the request of the Council, has agreed to be responsible for this new feature.

With regard to classes in librarianship which the Association has been endeavouring to persuade the L.C.C. to take up, it is of particular interest to learn that one responsible master has agreed to start a class in any desired subject on learning of a minimum of seven students desiring to take such course. This is a definite step forward, and is of special interest to assistants in the Metropolitan district.

A keen discussion also took place on the curious attitude taken up by the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association and *all* readers are requested to peruse the paragraph which we have devoted to that question, which further emphasises the need for an association to safeguard the interests of assistants.

Classification.—We again draw the attention of our readers to the "Grammar of Classification" by Mr. Sayers, the 3rd Edition of which is now available and can be obtained from Mr. W. B. Thorne, Bromley Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar, E.14., for the modest sum of 6½d. At the same time we would point out that a number of the A.A.L. series are still in print. A list of the series appears on p. 4 of the cover.

Honorary Librarian of the Association.—Mrs. Hazard, consequent on her appointment to the position of Cataloguer in the Croydon Public Libraries, has resigned her post of Honorary Librarian to the A.A.L. Mrs. Hazard has carried out the duties of Librarian for several years, and very few, we think realise the valuable and unobtrusive work that has gone on behind the scenes. The Association owes her a deep debt of gratitude for the skilful and untiring way in which she has ministered to the requests of assistants, and in making the library really useful to members of the profession. It was with regret that the Council accepted the resignation of Mrs. Hazard, but at the same time heartily congratulated her on her appointment. In recognition of her valuable services, it was unanimously decided in Council to make a presentation to Mrs. Hazard.

Miss A. E. Lucas, Central Library, Islington, has kindly consented to take up the office.

County Library Appointments.—Our attention has been drawn to a letter, in one of our contemporaries, from Mr. C. R. Sanderson who, in the course of his remarks says that "there is an unpleasant tone in the suggestion conveyed by the anonymous comment in one library journal: 'Mr. H. D. Roberts who raised the point had been satisfied and apparently it did not matter about the rest of the members.'"

This extract is taken from our account of the Conference at Glasgow and we fail to see anything unpleasant, either intended or implied in our article, and we submit that it is a fair comment

on the proceedings. Mr. Sanderson misses the point entirely. We are not concerned personally with either Mr. H. D. Roberts or Colonel Mitchell, but what we are concerned with, is the appointment of untrained or insufficiently trained men and women to the post of librarian in County Library systems, and surely the recent advertisement of the Northamptonshire County Council is a sufficient justification for our attitude.

We do not appreciate Mr. Sanderson's last sentence when he says that "he writes in the interests of truth." The facts of the case were as reported in our journal, and to Mr. Roberts' question as to the appointment of trained men, Colonel Mitchell promised a written reply for the *Business* meeting, not for the *Council* as Mr. Sanderson states in his letter, which, as will be readily agreed, is a very different thing.

We are still of the opinion that the reply should have been submitted to the business meeting, and incidentally it would be interesting to know what action the Trustees took in regard to the recent County Library advertisement upon which we have already commented.

In our list of appointments will be found particulars of the Yorkshire East Riding County Librarianship to which an elementary school teacher has been appointed.

In this connection it might be noted that an article on the East Riding scheme in the "Municipal Journal" of November 21st last described in some detail what would be expected of the selected candidate. Among other interesting points the following appears "As to the librarian, it is required that the post should be advertised with a view to eliciting applications of the right kind. Other qualifications being approximately equal, preference is expected to be given to a candidate with the best training and experience in librarianship."

The desirability of appointing a person trained as a librarian is also shown in the information *re* duties sent out with the application forms for the post.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

In accepting the invitation of the Council to be responsible for this new feature, I fear that I have committed myself to an almost impossible task. The list given is not to exceed twelve titles, so that it will be apparent to all that I shall be open to endless criticism. The difficulty will be not what to include, but what to leave out.

I shall endeavour to give, as far as possible, only those books of outstanding merit, and these will include authors of known value and those who are still in the experimental stage. These

lists will naturally be almost confined to works of pure literature, except where a work, although, for the want of a better term, is classified as non-fiction, has a much wider appeal, or where its supreme greatness compels its inclusion.

As this is the first of the series I propose to commence by giving a list of, not the twelve best books, nor the twelve outstanding, but twelve outstanding books of 1924, and I have endeavoured to leave out the obvious ones, such as Shaw's "St. Joan," which has received such publicity that no assistant can be unaware of its existence.

Bell. *The Great Plague in London in 1665.* ... (Lane)
Constant. *Adolphe.* ... (Philpot)

The forerunner of the psychological novel, and is regarded as a masterpiece of self-analysis. This is the first English translation which has appeared for over one hundred years.

Forster. *Passage to India.* ... (Arnold)
Galsworthy. *The White Monkey.* ... (Heinemann)
Haldane. *Daedalus; or science and the future.* (K. Paul)
Housman. *Trimblerrigg: a modern satire.* ... (Cape)
Maurois. *Ariel: a Shelley romance* ... (Lane)
Power. *Medieval People.* ... (Methuen)
Mann. *Buddenbrooks. 2 vols.* ... (Secker)

Translated from the German. The author is considered to be one of the great German modern novelists, and this is his most representative work.

Mottram. *Spanish Farm.* ... (Chatto)
Awarded Hawthornden Prize for 1924.

Trench. *Collected works. 3 vols.* ... (Cape)

These three volumes contain several poems hitherto unpublished in book form, all those poems which the author wished to preserve, and a chronicle play, "Napoleon," written for the most part in prose.

Turner. *Variations on the theme of music* ... (Heinemann)

A work of original and provocative criticism by one of the younger school of English musical critics. G. F. V.

LIBRARIANSHIP AS A CAREER FOR WOMEN.

By Miss W. K. THORNE, St. Bride Institute.

(Continued from p. 22.)

Personally I do not think this is at all likely to come about, nor do I think it necessary for making Librarianship wholly satisfactory as a career for women. There are Library systems in England run entirely by women, but they are in a very small minority and I see no reason why the percentage should be increased. But I do think that the number of Libraries employing men only, should be decreased, and decreased considerably, in fact eliminated altogether. Any Library system which employed girls during the war and is now replacing them as they leave, by boys, is I think, taking a distinctly backward step. Thus there does not seem to be any tendency in the direction of making

Librarianship a career solely for women, as nursing, nor do I think it necessary, as I said before, in order that it should become a good profession for women to enter.

At present Librarianship is not so lucrative as some other professions, although the position now is much better than it was before the removal of the penny rate. As Librarians become better educated, the rate of remuneration should increase in a similar proportion, although Public Opinion will play a large part in that desired improvement. When we ourselves have educated the masses up to realizing that Librarianship is as much a skilled profession as Doctoring, then we shall have achieved something, and our salaries are sure to increase.

Now having said something about the prospects before us, I will turn, with your permission, to the kind of women most suitable for the career. I have dealt with the special qualities desirable for a Children's Librarian, but they were, for the most part extra to those ordinarily required.

She should be studious, or interest in books and their classification and cataloguing would soon flag. She should be patient, to explain the methods of procedure, and catalogues to simple people. She should be understanding, to be able to gather from a few broken sentences the needs of the person, and sympathetic to help them in difficulties. A good memory saves much time in "looking up" information while common sense is absolutely invaluable. The faculty for doing neat, tidy and accurate work is one well worth developing as it makes the work of others easier in many respects. A Librarian is not encouraged to put all his energies into his work by the thought that if the issues go up his salary will be increased. In a Library are housed the Ideals of hundreds of men and women. It is our place to help people to read and understand these matters. We must lend a hand willingly, out of the goodness of our hearts. The Libraries are for the benefit of the people, and the Librarian must willingly and cheerfully help people to find any information that is wanted.

We have before us a better outlook than any of our predecessors. The scope of Librarianship is broadening wonderfully. Most large firms, and all the newspapers of any consequence, have special libraries, and the number is constantly increasing. These libraries must all have a Librarian of some sort, and as time goes on, it is to be hoped that properly trained persons will be appointed.

The number of County Library schemes too, is rapidly increasing, and women are as suitable for the post of County Librarian as men. These schemes, once begun, will never end, but will most assuredly extend in all directions so that Assistant County Librarians will be needed.

It is up to us to take hold of every slight opportunity that presents itself, not only to improve our own positions, but those of our successors. We have benefitted by the pioneer work done by those who went before, let those who are yet to come, benefit by our work.

IN DEFENCE OF THE NOVEL.¹

By F. P. SINCLAIR, St. Pancras Public Libraries.

Introductory.—As an introduction to my subject I should like, first of all, to quote from an article by Sir Arthur T. Quiller-Couch published in 1922; he says "The business of an intelligent library committee consists, as I take it, in filling their shelves with sound literature of all sorts; not in bullying the public into this or that pathway of interest. The main business of a public librarian, as I take it, is (after due care of the books in his charge) not so very different from that of a university professor who stands by and has his advice ready for anyone who consults him. I am tired of statistics telling me what proportion of novels was drawn out of such-and-such a public library in comparison with the demand (say) for books on natural science or on economics. . . ." These words, coming from such an authority, constitute an effective rejoinder to the old-fashioned but still very-much-alive charge anent the provision of fiction in public libraries and the large percentage of the fiction issue.

In case the title of my paper may seem high-sounding, or perhaps even impertinent, having in mind the great names associated in the annals of literature with the medium of the novel, I would wish to make my position clear at the outset. I am going to hazard a few remarks, mainly with a view to provoking discussion, on that familiar "bone of contention" in many circles, the question of the novel, and more especially the popular novel, in rate-supported libraries.

Some time ago I had a rather amusing experience. A certain enthusiastic if ill-informed councillor paid a visit to a library where I was serving and asked to see "the new books." On my taking him into the office and showing him a selection of recent additions to the educational sections of the stock, he said: "Oh, I don't want these; I want to see the friction!" It occurred to me that, in view of events, the word might not have been so flagrant a misnomer as it at first appeared! By the way, this incident is fact and *not* fiction!

¹ Read at Tottenham, 14th January, 1925.

A note on Classification.—It has always seemed to me a curious point that the public librarian, in charge of an educational institution, has been apparently unable to devise a better inclusive term for the field of literature which is directly concerned with the education of mankind than "non-fiction." I imagine, though I am not sure, that the expression was originally imported from our American confrères. In any case it is surely a pity that our classification experts are not possessed of a sufficiently strong "streak of originality" to cope with such a situation. Although I am here to-night definitely ranged on the side of that which, for want of a better term I am going to call recreational literature, I nevertheless strongly object to the novel, and under that head is, of course, included good and indifferent, if not actually bad fiction, occupying the premier position of the two main divisions of the classification of public library stocks. Firstly, what does the Law say about the provision of fiction in municipal libraries? So far as I am aware there is no definite instruction either for or against the inclusion of novels; it is left, as are so many things, to the option of the local authority. Approaching the problem from a logical standpoint, we have then, to consider one or two basic questions. Why should novels be included in the stocks of public libraries which should possess a definite status as educational institutions? Is there any educational value attaching to novel-reading? If there is not, are we justified in providing out of public funds, literature of a purely recreational nature? Now these, in spite of being hackneyed, are still, to my mind, exceedingly interesting questions; and many are the answers that occur to me. I intimated just now that there were good, indifferent, and quite possibly, *bad* novels to be found in many public libraries. The same thing is unfortunately, in some cases, true of the *other* sections of the stock and, after all, it seems a trifle inconsistent if we should cavil at the popular novel while freely admitting to our shelves the so-called records of certain remarkable fishermen, big-game hunters, globe-trotters and others whose "experiences" often savour, and as often have been proved to be, more of fiction than of fact! Such cases are inexcusable exaggerations for the purpose of self-gratification. There is far more warrant, in my opinion, for classification under "fact" of such admirable efforts as Mrs. Margaret L. Woods' "A Poet's Youth," or Mr. Sabatini's "Historical Nights' Entertainments," for these are at least serious attempts to reclothe events that have passed, with uncertain record, into history. It is well known that the late Mr. Conrad subscribed wholeheartedly to the dictum of Henry James that "Fiction is nearer truth than history." There is also Oscar Wilde's amusing

apophthegm that "the only form of fiction in which real characters do not seem out of place is history." When one compares the writings of various historians, for instance Green and Lingard, one realises that prejudice certainly has been allowed too much scope somewhere. In any case the historian relies on documents for his recording of events; the artist among novelists on men and women.

Direct and Indirect Education through the Novel.—Perhaps the most important point in my "brief" for the "defence" is the *educative value* of the novel. Will anyone present to-night, I wonder, disagree with my contention that the novel, generally speaking, is one of the most powerful forces for good or evil, as the case may be, in the world of to-day. We hear incessant ravings about the influence of the cinema but it does not get into every home as does the novel. Even the modern marvel of wireless cannot oust the novel from its position and, in places where a newspaper is a too expensive luxury and the public library alas unknown, there are usually a few paper or cloth-bound novels which are exchanged within and without the family circle.

In this great Metropolis you may enter any vehicle—'bus tram, or train—at a time when the workers are on either their outward or homeward journey and you will almost invariably find a great proportion of the travellers, especially they of the gentler sex, whiling away the monotony of the journey with a novel. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would submit that, with the possible exception of the most jaded novel-reader, the average novel has its very decided influence on its reader and a good percentage of the novels stocked by the average public library have a decided educational influence. Of course, there is always the novel which ranks as pure literature and stands beside the narrative poem and the drama—no matter how amusing a divergence of views there may be as to the line of demarcation. No one will question the value to the reader of the novels, for instance, of the veteran master novelist—Thomas Hardy, or the works of Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, R. L. Stevenson, and others. The works of the real artists among novelists may quite suitably be compared, as of course they have been, to the works of the great painters. The contemplation of a fine painting—where the artist has caught the atmosphere of his subject and has imparted to it that something which is the echo in his work of his imagination—is not only a source of mental uplift; it is also a visualization of, and as such, an education in, some phase of human nature, some landmark of racial history, or the character of some interesting personage. The novel as a word-picture of character and event with its foreground of important characters and scenery, its middle distance of

less important characters introduced because of their influence on the chief protagonists, and its background of scenery and general atmosphere, bears a decided comparison to the painting.

We do not need to contend for the inclusion in our libraries of the works of the masters; we should only make ourselves ridiculous by attempting their exclusion. And, while on the subject of pure literature, I may mention that it would be something of a curious anomaly, were we to stock the dramatic efforts of certain novelist-dramatists and exclude their novels—more especially as, in many cases, the same theme has been used in novel and play alike; there are the instances of Mr. Maugham's "Rain," Mr. Bennett's "Great Adventure," and Mr. A. A. Milne's "Mr. Pim passes by" among others.

We may conveniently divide the general present-day output of novels (regardless of any question of literary value) into two classes—novels of character and novels of action. Such works as Mr. Brett Young's "Black Diamond," Miss Sinclair's "Mary Olivier," Mr. Wells' "Kipps" and "Love and Mr. Lewisham," Mr. Swinnerton's "Young Felix" and Mr. Compton Mackenzie's "Sinister Street" fall naturally into the former group, while the scientific romances of Mr. Wells, the romances of the late Mr. Hewlett, and most of the popular novels of Mr. J. C. Snaith, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins, and others fall into the latter group. The novel of character serves many useful purposes incidental to the recreational motive for its existence. It is an aid to the appreciation of the lights and shades of psychology; it has the effect of widening the reader's experience of the diverse nature of humanity. Many in the past have enjoyed the delightful company of Mr. Hardy's Tess, of Dickens' gallery of fascinating characters, of Thackeray's Becky Sharp, and a score of others that occur to one from the pages of the immortals; and many another thousand readers will live to be delighted in the same way. However, we are mainly concerned to-night with the *popular* novel. Who, then, has not felt a new joy in life from such close association as Mr. Locke permits us with that golden-hearted rascal Paragot? If Mr. Locke does indulge at times in riotous extravaganza his writings are very companionable; indeed they take us away out of a workaday world into the pleasantest of company. Who, again, after a dull day, has not thanked Providence for the drolleries of Mr. Jacobs' Night Watchman, Sam Small, Ginger Dick and Peter Russet, and the Oldest Inhabitant? Many of us will remember David O'Rane and perhaps, too, old Burgess from Mr. McKenna's "Sonia"; and there are those, including Sir James Barrie, who, in spite of Mr. Hutchinson's peculiar style, found Mark Sabre an acceptable character!

Our American cousins have recently produced a great novelist in the person of Mr. Sinclair Lewis, whose *Geo. F. Babbitt* ranks high as a character study and useful as an interpretation, for the world to read, of a representative phase of American life. However, while I have spent many a pleasant and profitable evening in his company, I am not ashamed to confess my entertainment also at the hands of Mr. Peter B. Kyne, another American on a different plane, with his amusing old man Cappy Ricks and his Blue Star interests, and, again, with Mr. Booth Tarkington's cheering Penrod.

The novel of action, too, has its decided value apart from its business of recreation; it is undoubtedly an exercise for the mind to read even a well-contrived detective story. How many households in how many stations of society have revelled in—aye, and profited by—the prowess of Mr. Sherlock Holmes and “My dear Watson”? Hodder's will tell you that a copy of every Oppenheim yarn is supplied in special binding to Sir James Barrie. Many of our leading politicians have, at one time or another, confessed their predilection for a good detective or mystery story in their moments of leisure; possibly, however, in their case, it was the change of resting their lingual organ which appealed to them!

Apart, however, from the division of novels into studies of character and novels of action one may proceed to classify again by subject. The novel with a definite and well-described topographical background not only serves, incidentally, the purpose of educating the reader concerning the particular district or country with which it deals, but tends to introduce him to serious works of travel and topography, and even to interest him, to the extent of inducing him, in the case of our own country, at all events, to visit the locality; a well-known recent instance is the extraordinary interest evinced in the place of residence of the miserly Henry Earlfoward of “Riceyman Steps” in the King's Cross Road district. Much has been written of and many consequent visits paid to, spots associated with Dickens' and Thackeray's London and Mr. Hardy's Wessex. I do not think that Miss Kaye-Smith with her clever delineation of Sussex life and character has been without her influence in this and other ways. Speaking of Miss Kaye-Smith reminds me of an amusing story told recently—that of the library assistant who, asked for the works of *Schiller*, pondered awhile and then replied brightly, “Ah! you mean *Sheila Kaye-Smith*.” Many an enthusiastic reader has become familiarized with the life of the Potteries through the magic of Mr. Bennett's pen, and Mr. Riley has proved himself equal to the task of conveying the atmosphere and scenery of Yorkshire in his novels and sketches. Then again, Mr. Eden Philpotts, the serious student of a great master, has endeavoured to translate, in

terms of the novel, the life and associations of Dartmoor and other parts of Devon and Cornwall; and of course, Sir A. T. Quiller-Couch has written many sketches and stories around his native Fowey in Cornwall. Again, we have Mr. Shane Leslie as an interpreter of Irish life and character and Mr. Neil Munro and Mr. Crockett, among others, with their novels of Scottish life. Going further afield we find writers like the late Mr. W. H. Hudson with his remarkable study of the tropical forest of South America in "Green Mansions," and the late Mr. Conrad with his powerful and intimate studies of life at sea and in the tropical east. On a different plane we have Sir Gilbert Parker and his French-Canadian interests; Mr. Zane Grey with his stories of the South-west United States and the Mexican Border; the late Jack London and Mr. Curwood and their tales of the Alaskan wilderness; Mrs. Diver with her Anglo-Indian stories and in a lesser degree, Mrs. Perrin and Mrs. Penny who also usually choose India as their background; and one could go on with the citing of such cases. Enough has, however, been said to give clear evidence of the numerous instances of the art of the novelist, and perhaps we had better say "craft" in the case of the "best sellers," being used for its legitimate purpose, and further, incidentally, as a definite factor for geographical education. I imagine that quite a number of people will disagree about this alleged educative value especially in the case of the popular tales of writers such as Mr. Zane Grey. I can only say that I have repeatedly known of cases where, after reading such fiction, interest has been aroused, consequent discussion evoked, and a definite educational purpose served. Of course, one can but agree that what may be termed the "superficial reader" is met with on every hand; I have yet, however, to be convinced that he is in a majority.

Will anyone gainsay my contention that the average reader following Mr. Zangwill through one of his studies of the Ghetto will come away from it with new thoughts of, and sympathies with, Jewish life and character. Mr. Pett Ridge's amusing cameos of London life are, of course, born of the Author's experience, and as such, are an education to the reader in London character; and the same applies to the grand guignol of Mr. Thomas Burke. Even Sir Henry Rider Haggard has quickened to a very considerable extent the general interest in the history and archaeology of the Land of the Pharaohs. The late Mr. Hewlett's scholarly retelling of the Icelandic sagas has given to the novel-reader a fund of inspiring heroic romance which would otherwise be lost to him. From the novels of Sir Walter Scott and Dumas père, among others, to the more recent efforts of Mr. Stanley Weyman, Miss Marjorie Bowen and Mr. Sabatini, we have had historical novels of varying educational value, many

of them adequately conveying a general idea of the manners, customs and historical episodes of the periods with which they are concerned. I was credibly informed, quite recently, by a lady official concerned with the administration of L.C.C. evening centres, of a centre where a popular novel forms (on a reading circle basis) an introduction to a systematic study of—say—a period of French history.

Books of the type of Mr. Wells' "Mr. Britling" and Mr. McKenna's "Sonia" are absolute pictures of definite phases of recent history.

"Bartimeus" and "Taffrail" have done much to instruct their readers on the life of the bluejacket in the Royal Navy of to-day—a phase of life which had scarcely received the storyteller's attention since the days of Marryat.

Mr. Alec Waugh has written an authentic and intimate picture of present-day school-life in the "Loom of Youth." It will be seen from the various examples I have mentioned, how many and varied are the phases of life covered by the novel and how proportionately wide, therefore, are its educational possibilities.

The Propaganda Novel.—I want to mention, here, the services to the cause of humanitarianism rendered by many novelists. The late Jack London with his two novels "Jerry of the Islands" and "Michael, brother of Jerry," put the case against the training of animals for public exhibition; also, he gave us such stories as "White Fang" and "The Call of the Wild" calculated to inspire sympathy and thought for our canine friends. Again, there is Mr. Ollivant's great story "Owd Bob" and the lesser Kazan stories of Mr. Curwood.

I would venture to say that such books are more influential in the worthy cause of our dumb friends than much sermonizing and school propaganda. Turning to a slightly different phase of animal story-telling, I should like to mention the work of those Canadian naturalists and story-tellers—Mr. Charles G. D. Roberts and Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton; also the work of the late Mr. F. St. Mars and Mr. Bertram Atkey.

The writings of these gentlemen are, I maintain, of the greatest educational service—fiction though they be; they are the result of years of painstaking observation and are instinct throughout with a real love of nature and a keen sympathy with the world of animal life—qualities which will not be without their reflection in the mind of the intelligent reader. Even that best of life—the primal instincts of man and the thoughts and actions the whole, a decided power for good, with her keenness for the bird denizens of her homeland.

I should like to call to your minds, too, in passing, the part the novel has played in the amelioration of the lot of the under-dog of humanity in the past. There is the outstanding case of Mrs. Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Captain Marryat's strong satire on the unhappy conditions of naval life in the early 19th century was not without its result; and, more recently we have had the case of Mr. Clark Russell who, after a rough apprenticeship to the sea himself, used the novel as an effective medium for the ventilation of the grievances of the seamen of the mercantile marine. And the novel has been consistently used in a greater or lesser degree for purposes of propaganda since the days of Richardson.

Of recent years we have had what may be termed propaganda on many debatable points from the detachment of Mr. Galsworthy in his presentation, through the sister mediums of the drama and the novel, of the artificial restrictions of our civilisation, to the vapourings of such people as the late Miss Corelli and Mr. Joseph Hocking; and, latterly, of Mr. Hutchinson with his far-fetched anti-feminist melodrama "This Freedom"; across the water, Mr. Upton Sinclair and Mr. Frank Norris have spoken plainly on many questions, and shortly, no doubt, we shall be having strong propaganda tales from a certain Spanish novelist! Mr. Galsworthy has fairly consistently used the novel and the drama for showing us the weak spots in our over-lauded social economy. The smug respectability and exaggerated sense of ownership of the well-to-do, typified in the character of the man of property, Soames Forsyte—for instance. Meredith and Hardy, however, among the great, have been content to use the novel as a vehicle for the expression of their conception of the world's meaning and the general problems of human life and character—the individual related to the whole, rather than the individual related to the artificial standards of the few.

Art may, as we are told, deal only with the elemental things of life—the primal instincts of man and the thoughts and actions which are based upon them; the passing problems of each civilization, however, are neither more nor less than the outcome of these fundamental laws of nature and as such find place, in the light of our modern education, in the interpretation of life by the creative artist. Few, indeed, are the men who have used the novel as an art medium and have altogether refrained from airing their prejudices and so to a greater or lesser degree providing a story and also what amounts to more or less of a social tractate at one and the same time. Dickens deliberately aimed his shafts at the Poor Law, private schools, hypocrisy in religion, and many other failures in the social administration of his day. Thackeray no less keenly satirised the social types of his time; and so on.

Perhaps it will seem to you that I am diverging considerably from the point of my paper and becoming unnecessarily prolix; my intention, however, is to show that there has been and is a great deal of propaganda going on from day to day through the novel. I would suggest that such propaganda, provided it deals with some sufficiently important phase of life, is calculated to render good educational service by provoking thought, and consequently instinctive criticism, on the part of the reader, on the matters concerned.

General Remarks.—I think I have heard the statement, in talks to children on public library facilities, that "our library stocks represent the record of man's knowledge gained from experience." It can with truth be said that most of the better novels are the results of their authors' experience of life. What made Gissing the sombre pessimist he was and his work largely a reflection of that pessimism? I imagine from "The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft" that it was, without question, his unhappy experience of life. What gave Conrad his vast and intimate knowledge of the sea and seamen? It was the result of his experience as a seaman in the British Mercantile Marine. Wherein lies the peculiar fascination of Jane Austen's Victorian studies? Largely, it lies I suggest, in the intimate nature of her pictures—due to her having written from her own experience of life. It is impossible to convey a semblance of reality with puppets drawn from the imagination when experience of men and women wherewith to endue them with life-giving faculties is missing.

In reading a good novel we broaden our understanding of life and its problems by approaching some phase or phases of another's experience viewed through the eyes of, and brought into proper perspective by, the author. As Mr. Swinnerton so aptly puts it: "The novelist puts thoughts about life, conduct, and many other vital things into the heads of his readers" and "if they keep brains and imagination active, they must be to some extent educational." To meet and mix with one's fellow men is always a sure means of widening one's sympathies and assisting one's philosophy of life, and one meets and mixes with them in varying degrees of reality in the pages of the novel. In my public service I have been repeatedly astonished, interested, and pleased, to hear from persons, obviously denied in their early days the chance of reasonable education, descriptions of characters, often, it is agreed, from the pages of ephemeral fiction; descriptions sufficing, nevertheless, to indicate an extraordinary power of imagination, which, directed into more useful channels, would be calculated to result, for such persons, in a new outlook on the world of letters. In our modern workaday world the cultivation of imagination is certainly a thing to be encouraged on every

hand. Many librarians know, alas—to their mortification, the singular lack of imagination on the part of many otherwise worthy members of committee. Again, when you have to cope with people who *literally* obey the injunction to “write legibly in ink” by writing the word “legibly” in ink as we have had recently in St. Pancras, you will realise that some people are not possessed of very much imagination. Even in the case of lower grade novels the imagination of the writer certainly does beget imagination in the reader—perhaps, in the case of the more hopeless type of novel, of a not altogether worthy character. Speaking of this reminds me of what I regard as a curiously paradoxical position which certain well-informed people persistently assume. Where they are never tired of the usual condemnation of providing the writings of Miss Dell, Miss Ayres, and certain others for the delectation of flighty youngsters or sentimental old ladies, they wax ecstatic over the morbid pruriencies of Mr. D. H. Lawrence and others and even allow all and sundry access to them in the ordinary way. I maintain that some of Mr. Lawrence’s work, for example, excellent stylist though he is and brilliant though his characterization at times may be, is calculated to result in considerably more harm to the unsophisticated youngster, even in *these* days of the “emancipation of youth,” than the highflown romance, sickly sentimentalism, and poor English of certain “best-sellers.” There is an unhealthy tendency, nowadays—mostly on the part of self-constituted literary critics to jeer at all sentiment and call it sentimentalism, and to hail all that follows the school of Zola, regardless of a good many things, as very good literature. Mr. Locke—that writer of wholesome, if fanciful, tales—once asked why, as we do not take a microscopic lens to cheese when we eat it, we should do so with life when we live it! If it comes to realism in the strict sense of the word, humour, joy, and brightness should be as much in evidence as the sordid things. Mr. Swinnerton’s “The Merry Heart” is a realistic little picture of a London clerk—a cheery, light-hearted individual—who is just as real as Jenny and Emmy Blanchard, the unhappy sisters in his brilliant long “short story,” “Nocturne.” It is the optimist that counts in these days, and the public benefactors who materially assist in the driving away of the disease of the age—worry—are the fraternity of Messrs. Jacobs, Jerome, Wodehouse, the late Herbert Jenkins, and others. After the receipt of the final income-tax demand note, would we read, for preference, the carefully analysed details of the effects of intoxicants or drugs on the lives of people of twisted temperament and perverted taste, or psychological studies of that peculiar trend of thought and action, which persistently explores all possibilities of the noxious

and diseased ways of life? I think the vote of the vast majority would be for light romance and humour. Mr. Jeffery Farnol is a poor substitute for George Borrow but, at least, he does not subscribe to the assertion of Mr. W. L. George that "life is most vivid when it is most unpleasant."

There is a type of super-critic, who, well steeped in the tradition of the Victorians, decries, with an air of finality, all modern novels, and persistently declares that there is no one among the younger school to bear comparison with the acknowledged masters of the past. One of the points one hears raised in such a connection is the prolific modern output. Such critics forget or ignore the fact that the modern novel is often very little more than a lengthened short story, and that, quite probably, three or four of the standard length novels of to-day would be required to equal the volume of matter contained in many of the Victorian novels. The late William de Morgan, *alone* among the writers of this century, wrote lengthily, and *his* novels belong properly beside the work of the last century. There can be little doubt that this century will produce its quota of masters precisely as the last has done.

The Best Seller.—I should like, at this juncture, to consider the general problem of lower grade fiction in public libraries; it is, in my opinion, one of grossly exaggerated import. I would suggest that we ourselves, more or less in the position of graduates in the school of literary appreciation, are apt to forget or altogether overlook the extraordinary variety we should find in the respective minds of, say, any twelve persons gathered at random from a suburban High Street. In my opinion, we should not find more than one or two of those persons who had read any of the works of, say, Mr. Hardy! On the other hand we should quite probably find seventy-five per cent. who had acquired the habit of reading Miss Dell, or worse still, penny novelettes! And, again, I would venture to add that nearly as large a percentage out of our dozen would be entirely incapable of appreciating Mr. Hardy. Now I believe that it is fairly general nowadays to provide a more or less graded series of stories in juvenile departments in order to make suitable provision for children according to age and sex. It has occurred to me that, whereas a similar diversity of requirement undoubtedly exists in the adult section, practically no heed is paid to it. While it would, obviously, be ridiculous to attempt any sort of adult grading—at all events by age—I maintain, however, that we should keep well in mind the fact that that which appeals to Miss Seventeen will not necessarily appeal to Mrs. Seventy-years-old, or that that which appeals to a foreign correspondence clerk will not necessarily appeal, at first contact, to the average bricklayers'

labourer! Oscar Wilde once said that "the appreciation of literature is a question of temperament and not of teaching." Certainly I would say that literary appreciation is affected by environment, as environment affects character. Do we, as a rule, expect the slum-dweller to appreciate the finer points of literary composition? The man or woman working almost automatically in workshop or office during the day and coming home to an environment that is scarcely inspiring at night is most concerned to get away from the life of his or her experience; to get away into some atmosphere however highflown and ridiculous that is sufficiently exciting or romantic as a remote contrast to their own drab existence; hence, the rush to the "pictures" to witness the stereotyped Hollywood melodrama; hence, also, the rush to certain popular authors, who have, I think, much in common with the "pictures." Here, however, is our chance, for, by stocking at least a representative selection of the output of the most wholesome of the "best-sellers" we are providing a point of contact with a large percentage of the general public. There is, quite obviously, no useful purpose served to the general community in providing a public lending library stocked, so far as imaginative literature is concerned, with the best only; such an institution would be the possession of a privileged class. By providing a point of contact with the masses, always endeavouring, of course, to keep the standard of such matter reasonably high, we are bringing the public into their own institutions where they should find a more or less linked sequence of reading matter from the lower grades to the best in the world's literature. From the point of view of amusement only there is much to be said for the novel. Where is the school without playing-fields and sports-ground? And why should the public library be without its recreation ground for the mind? If there should be objection to the novel as a recreational factor only, similar objection might logically be made to the provision of books dealing with sports and pastimes.

The Short Story.—I have noticed that many librarians neglect the short story. It is the exception rather than the rule to find any really interesting variety of collections of short stories. Of course, Mr. Kipling is represented, also Mr. Jacobs, "O. Henry," and several of those I may term the standard writers. The fact remains, however, that the art of the short story is an art on its own—precisely as Mr. Thomas Burke explains—"as the art of the miniature is an art on its own." Where we do stock short stories in any number they are hidden away among stacks of full-length novels, mostly with no indication on the library binding as to what they are and sometimes even with no indication in the catalogue. Many people for

example, know and wish to read Henry James's "ghost" story, "The Turning of a Screw," but they are not aware that it is to be found under the title "The Two Magics" and so, possibly, never come across it, unless under the guidance of some other better-instructed person.

(To be continued).

CORRESPONDENCE.

Sheffield Public Libraries,
Administrative Department, Reference Library.
19th January, 1925.

To the Editor of the "Library Assistant."

DEAR SIR,—The caustic note in your January issue with reference to the advertisement of the Northamptonshire Education Committee for a librarian is excellent so far as it goes, but is it not time that the appointment of untrained persons to library posts received serious consideration.

Presumably the Library Association will lodge a protest; but the effect of such protests is not particularly apparent. It would appear that action of a militant nature is required.

I would suggest for the consideration of your readers that in cases of this kind the offending authority be notified that should the appointment be made outside the library profession, the following action will be taken:—

Neither the authority making the appointment nor the librarian appointed will be recognised by organised bodies in the library profession, and any librarians or assistants applying to such authority for appointments, or having any dealings with the authority or the librarian appointed will be expelled from recognised professional bodies.

Opinions may differ as to whether proscription by the Library Association is to be regarded as a penalty, but in the present feeble state of organisation of librarianship it seems to be the only weapon in our armoury.

It may be argued that action of this nature is undignified and unprofessional, but if a body with the prestige and honourable record of the B.M.A. can take far more ruthless action, the library profession should not hesitate to adopt an active policy against these repeated attacks on the librarian's status.

Yours, etc.,
J. P. LAMB.

THE DIVISIONS.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION.

A Meeting of the Western Section will be held at Southampton, on Thursday, February 19th, 1925.

Members and friends should arrange to reach Southampton West as near 3 p.m. as possible and should send time of arrival to Mr. A. H. Davis, Chief Librarian, Southampton, by February 17th, who will make arrangements to meet visitors.

Mr. Davis hopes to show the visitors some of the many interesting things in Southampton during the afternoon. Tea, by kind invitation of Mr. Davis and the Southampton Staff, will be provided at the Tudor House Museum, where it is hoped the Mayor of Southampton will welcome the visitors.

The Tudor House Museum is a splendid half-timbered mansion which was erected at the beginning of the 16th century on foundation and cellars of a Norman building and sheltered King Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, also King Philip of Spain on his way to marry Queen Mary at Winchester.

At the evening Meeting Mr. Hector F. Maurant, of Southampton, will read a paper entitled "Why novels are read," which should provoke an interesting discussion.

F. A. RICHARDS, Hon. Secretary.

**NORTH WESTERN DIVISION.
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AND WHIST DRIVE.**

The Second Christmas Social and Whist Drive, was held, by the kind permission of the Chief Librarian, in the Reference Library, Liverpool, on Friday, 19th December.

Ninety-one members and friends were present.

Whist was played until 8.45 p.m. and the winners of the lovely prizes were greatly envied by their less fortunate friends. Refreshments were then served, and the second half of the evening was devoted to music. The excellent musical programme was greatly appreciated by all present.

A very successful evening was brought to a close with the hearty singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

NEW MEMBERS.

Members: Miss R. Fairman (Margate), Miss M. C. Stanley-Smith (Croydon) and Leslie Virgo (Bermondsey).

Associate: Miss I. Spicer (Margate).

APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Ruth Baker, B.A. (Leeds), Diplomate, University College School of Librarianship, to be County Librarian, Northumberland. The other candidates selected for interview were Messrs. Lynn (Cardiff), Pearson (Newcastle-on-Tyne) and Smith (Edinburgh).

*Mr. Horace Goulden, Deputy Librarian, to be Chief Librarian and Curator, Huddersfield.

Mr. J. W. Lucas, F.L.A., Assistant-in-Charge, Astley Bridge Branch Library, Bolton, to be Librarian, Malvern. The other selected candidates were Messrs. J. W. March (Exeter), G. C. Poole (Cardiff), *W. G. Sanford (Chiswick), and W. T. Williams (Middlesbrough).

— Woodfield, Elementary School Teacher, Yorkshire East Riding County Council to be County Librarian, Yorkshire East Riding. The other candidates selected for interview were Messrs. Goulden (Huddersfield), A. E. Sleight (Cardiff) and E. Troup, B.A. (Durham), Secondary School Teacher (Res.), Malvern. Mr. Goulden withdrew before the interview.

*Member A.A.L.

Correction : P. 21 for Miss W. M. Thorne read Miss W. K. Thorne.

FOR SALE.

An Ex-Librarian's Tools for sale at bargain prices. No reasonable offer refused.

Sets, Odd vols. Odd parts: The Library. Old series and New series; L.A. Record; Library Assistant; Library World; L.A. Year Book; L.A. Transactions and Proceedings, etc., etc. Enquiries solicited.

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